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**FROM THE STAFF . . .**

## **ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

**→ WEEKLY FAX ←**

**10/28/96 - 11/1/96**

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### **THIS WEEK'S EVENTS:**

- Monday 10/28:      2 - 4 p.m.      Public Participation Focus Group, RFLII office, 5460 Ward Road, Suite 205, Arvada
  - 6 - 8 p.m.      Executive Committee, CAB office, 9035 North Wadsworth Parkway, Suite 2250, Westminster
  - Tuesday 10/29:      6 - 7:30 p.m.      Community Outreach Committee, CAB office, 9035 North Wadsworth Parkway, Suite 2250, Westminster
  - Wednesday 10/30:      No meetings scheduled
  - Thursday 10/31:      No meetings scheduled
  - Friday 11/1:      No meetings scheduled
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### **UPDATE - CAB COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:**

**National Issues Committee:** Monday, October 21. The National Issues Committee met to hear a presentation by Jim Reed with the National Conference of State Legislatures. Mr. Reed has done extensive research on nuclear waste transportation issues and recently authored a paper entitled, "The State Role in Spent Fuel Transportation Safety." This paper has applicability to all forms of nuclear materials transportation. (A copy of the paper is available at the CAB office.) Overall, Mr. Reed believes that the record for nuclear materials transport is good with just eight incidents reported out of an estimated three million shipments nationwide in the past year. These shipments range from large transports to small packages of nuclear medical materials. The eight incidents ranged from auto accidents to UPS dropping packages. One of the largest concerns in nuclear materials shipping is the disparity between urban and rural areas in terms of emergency response capabilities. This disparity may be of particular concern as waste shipments are diverted around urban areas into the more rural parts of the country.

Mr. Reed summarized what he feels are the major ongoing challenges for radioactive materials transportation:

- ensuring an effective regulatory system to safely handle the anticipated increase in radioactive materials shipments;
- better intergovernmental coordination of emergency response to accidents;
- increased participation by the states in routing designation exercises, in order to improve the safety of radioactive and hazardous shipments;
- a more influential state role in ensuring rail safety; and
- preservation of appropriate state authority and state funding mechanisms.

Next month, the National Issues Committee will continue to explore waste transportation issues. They are interested in finding out what the Ten Year Plan and other proposals at Rocky Flats have to say about transportation. Mr. Reed also suggested that the committee contact the Western Governors' Association for

information on waste transportation to WIPP. The next meeting of the committee will be on Monday, November 18, 6:30 p.m. at the CAB office.

## SUMMARY - OTHER MEETINGS:

**Community Work Session on Waste Strategies:** Saturday, October 19. There were about 60 stakeholders, site representatives and regulators at this Saturday meeting. The attendees were notified at the beginning of the meeting that the agencies had decided to approve the draft soil action levels, so there was a discussion of this decision added to the agenda. There were opening remarks from DOE Assistant Secretary Al Alm, Jessie Roberson and Bob Card. Frazer Lockhart then gave an overview of the Ten Year Plan (TYP), including a description of each of the major assumptions. Instead of breaking up into small groups to discuss the assumptions, the rest of the morning was spent hearing from different participants about their concerns regarding the TYP. Over lunch, each table was tasked to discuss the assumptions and identify areas of agreement and disagreement. When the group reconvened, the facilitator led them through a discussion of the major assumptions. The participants expressed a wide variety of concerns about each of the assumptions.

To conclude the meeting, Alm committed to several courses of action regarding the Ten Year Plan:

- 1) The public comment period will be extended through November 8.
- 2) Waste will not be disposed of at RFETS; while there it will remain in monitored, retrievable storage.
- 3) DOE will set dates for deciding which course to take regarding the TYP contingency plans for LL waste, TRU and plutonium storage / disposition.
- 4) During RFETS soil remediation, there may be instances in which cleanup can easily go beyond the 15/85 mrem levels to "as low as reasonably achievable" (ALARA). Whenever possible, they will use this strategy.
- 5) DOE will commit to review the soil action levels on a continuing basis and will solicit a scientific review process, possibly the National Academy of Sciences.
- 6) A stakeholder group should look at cleanup and monitoring issues for the post-10 year period.
- 7) DOE will work on safety by including the workers in defining work/hazards.
- 8) DOE has committed to work with the DNFSB in making the D&D of buildings 779 and 771 models for the complex. This involves independent oversight and working closely together on the process.

**Rocky Flats Public Information Meeting:** Wednesday, October 23. There were three topics on the agenda for this meeting. First was a presentation and discussion regarding Rocky Flats' reapplication for a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit for the treatment and storage of hazardous waste. The current permit expires on October 30. The new permit application reflects a couple of changes from the existing RCRA permit. First, it allows for flexible movement of waste within permitted units to allow for building dismantlement and offsite shipment. Second, this permit sets out streamlined, pre-approved storage unit closure processes. Through these changes, the site hopes to close more RCRA storage units and cut down on the number of permit modifications and the costs associated with this changes. The second agenda item was a presentation on the "re-baselining" of the Site Treatment Plan (STP). The STP is required by the 1992 Federal Facilities Compliance Act. Rocky Flats submitted an STP to CDPHE and it was signed last October. The original STP strategy is inconsistent with current site priorities under the Ten Year Plan. The goal of the Rebaseline is to reduce treatment and disposal costs and to accelerate scheduled completion. It emphasizes offsite treatment and existing onsite capabilities, as opposed to developing the new systems described in the original STP. In the STP, pondcrete and saltcrete -- which account for 76% of the site's total low-level waste inventory -- were not addressed until many years into the future. With the Rebaseline, Rocky Flats hopes to receive privatization money from Headquarters to ship this waste offsite beginning this fiscal year. The final agenda item was a review of the Ten Year Plan and a formal public comment period. There were about seven commenters, and they covered many issues and concerns associated with the Ten Year Plan.

**Environmental Management Advisory Board:** Wednesday, October 23. The Department of Energy's Environmental Management Advisory Board (EMAB) held its semi-annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Earlier this summer, EMAB constituted a committee to look at the Ten Year Plan. At this meeting, the members presented their findings. Overall, they supported the concept of a Ten Year Plan but pointed out that the brief period of time to develop the plans did not allow for adequate public participation. To help correct the lack of public involvement, EMAB requested that DOE develop a formal process to develop and review the plan on an annual basis. This process should include a separate and defined plan for stakeholder involvement. Also as part of the annual review, there needs to be a means for measuring progress.

EMAB was further concerned that the exact role of the Ten Year Plan in the overall decision-making process needs greater clarification. For example, does the level of soil cleanup needed drive decisions in the Ten Year Plan, or does the Ten Year Plan drive the decision on levels of soil cleanup? In addition, EMAB stated that DOE needs to clarify to Congress and others exactly what will be accomplished at the various sites and clear statements about what will not be possible to accomplish need to be made. For those areas where stakeholder concerns still remain, DOE needs to develop a plan of action for how it plans to address them and make these plans an integral part of the overall Ten Year Plan. (A copy of EMAB's Ten Year Plan letter to DOE is available in the CAB office for anyone who is interested.)

Mr. Alm, the DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, stated that he would accept the EMAB recommendations and announced that he would be sending out a letter to stakeholders within the coming weeks to answer some of the concerns about the Ten Year Plan that have been raised nationally.

After a lengthy discussion on the Ten Year Plan, the remainder of the EMAB meeting was spent in various committee reports. These committees include a Strategic Integration Committee that looks at DOE budget and planning issues; a Privatization Committee that is investigating DOE privatization proposals; a Science Committee that is investigating areas for further scientific research; and a Technology Development and Transfer Committee that is looking at DOE technology needs. Upon suggestion that Soil Cleanup Standards and the use of computer models might be an area for the Science Committee, Mr. Alm seconded the suggestion and asked that the committee investigate these standards.

**ROCKY FLATS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD  
CALENDAR OF MEETINGS - NOVEMBER 1996**

| SUNDAY | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY |
|--------|--|---|-----------|---|---|----------|
|        |  |   |           |   | 1   | 2        |
| 3      | 4  | 5   | 6         | 7<br>Monthly Board Meeting<br>6 p.m.<br>Westminster City Hall | 8   | 9        |
| 10     | 11   | 12<br>Site Wide Issues Committee<br>7 p.m.<br>CAB office  | 13        | 14  | 15  | 16       |
| 17     | 18<br>National Issues Committee<br>6:30 p.m.<br>CAB office | 19<br>Pu&SNM Committee<br>7 p.m.<br>Westminster City Hall | 20        | 21<br>E/WM Committee<br>7 p.m.<br>Westminster City Hall       | 22  | 23       |
| 24     | 25<br>Executive Committee<br>6 p.m.<br>CAB office          | 26  | 27        | 28<br>Thanksgiving Holiday<br>CAB office closed               | 29<br>Thanksgiving Holiday<br>CAB office closed | 30       |